state the status of revival of M/s Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Ltd. (BCPL) and M/s Bengal Immunity Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): The status of revival of M/s Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Ltd. (BCPL) and M/s Bengal Immunity Ltd. is as under:-

(a) BCPL-BIFR sanctioned the Rehabilitation Scheme for the revival of BCPL on 14.1.2004. This was further modified by the Company keeping in view its requirements. The Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has recommended the Modified Revival Proposal for BCPL. on 25.8.2006. Further action has already been initiated to obtain the approval of the competent authority for the revival scheme of the company.

(b) Bengal Immunity Ltd(BIL)—The company is closed. The Official Liquidator (O.L.) was appointed by the Kolkata High Court. On an application filed by the Employees Union, initially, the High Court of Kolkata stayed the order about appointment of O.L. to enable the Union to present its case before the Appellate Authority of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR). AAIFR desired to hear the views of the Department on the revival of BIL. The Department constituted a Committee to look into the matter in order to take a view in its entirety. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Department. On the application of the Department, High Court of Kolkata has since stayed the appointment of the O.L.

Price rise of medicines

1067. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some pharmaceutical companies have arbitrarily raised the prices of their medicines at the rate of more than 400%;

(b) if so, how many such cases have been brought to Government's notice during the last two years and the action taken in the matter; and

(c) the steps Government propose to initiate to bring the prices of medicines under control, within the reach of the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The 74 bulk drugs (including some anti-allergy drugs and pain killers) specified in the First Schedule of the drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. Prices are revised downward as well as upward as per provisions of DPCO, 1995. However, in no case, price increase has taken place more than 400% over the existing prices of Scheduled formulations. No one can sell Scheduled drug/formulation at a price more than the price fixed by the NPPA/Govt. In case there is any violation of approved/notified price of a Schedule formulation, action is taken under the provisions of the DPCO, 95.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

As part of its price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-Scheduled formulations. Wherever abnormal price increase is noticed, necessary action is taken. The manufacturers are impressed upon to bring down the prices voluntarily. This is an ongoing process.

Government is in the process of drafting a new Pharmaceutical Policy wherein more steps may be taken to keep a check on the prices of essential medicines needed by the common man.

Limiting of fertilizer subsidy

1068. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS to pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fertilizer subsidy burden on Government